LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) An electronic document management system, comprising:

a data creation device for creating ~~data by dividing~~ an electronic document [[into]] which has two or more partial documents of arbitrary or fixed length;

a signature device for generating a plurality of items of information, each item of information being for verifying validity of a respective one of the partial documents, generating an aggregate of the generated items of information for verifying the validity of [[all]] the ~~partial documents~~ electronic document, and generating a digital signature to the aggregate of the generated items of information;

a masking device for masking the electronic document ~~on an individual~~ by deleting or modifying one or more partial ~~document basis~~ documents, after generating the items of information and the digital signature; and

a verification device for verifying the validity of the masked electronic document which has one or more deleted or modified partial documents by verifying the digital signature using the aggregate of the generated items of information ~~using the digital signature~~, examining the validity of each of the partial documents of the masked electronic document including the one or more deleted or modified partial documents by verifying the generated item of information for each respective one of the partial documents, and based on a result of the item verifying, determining whether each respective partial document has been deleted or modified.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Currently amended) The electronic document management system according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the verification device displays the result of the verification on a display

unit for the purpose of notifying a verifier whether the ~~electronic~~ respective partial document is ~~partially~~ deleted or modified while assuring the validity of the whole electronic document.

4.   (Currently amended) The electronic document management system according to claim 1, wherein the data creation device divides the electronic document by adding a delimiter to the beginning and/or end of one or more of the partial document.

5.   (Original) The electronic document management system according to claim 4, wherein the electronic document is a document created with a markup language, wherein the partial documents are markup units for the document created with the markup language, and wherein the delimiter is a tag for the markup language.

6.   (Currently amended) The electronic document management system according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein each item of information for verifying the validity of a respective one of the partial documents is a hash value which is generated with a hash function for the respective one of the partial documents.

7.   (Currently amended) The electronic document management system according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein each item of information for verifying the validity of a respective one of the partial documents is a digital signature for the respective one of the partial documents.

8. (Currently amended) An electronic document management method, comprising:

~~dividing~~ creating an electronic document [[into]] comprised of two or more partial documents of arbitrary or fixed length;

generating ~~an item~~ a plurality of items of ~~information to verify~~ information, each item of information being for verifying the validity ~~for each~~ of a respective one of the partial documents;

generating an aggregate of the generated items of information for verifying the validity of [[all]] the ~~partial documents~~ electronic document;

generating a digital signature to the aggregate of the generated items of information;

masking the electronic document ~~on an individual partial document basis~~ by deleting or modifying one or more partial documents, after generating the items of information and the digital signature; and

verifying the validity of the masked electronic document [[by]] which has one or more deleted or modified partial documents by: verifying the digital signature using the aggregate of the generated items of ~~information using the digital signature~~ information, examining the validity of each of the partial documents of the masked electronic document including the one or more deleted or modified partial documents by verifying the generated item of information for each respective one of the partial documents, and based on a result of the item verifying, determining whether each respective partial document has been deleted or modified.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[9]] 8, further comprising displaying the result of the verifications to notify a verifier whether the ~~electronic~~ respective partial document is ~~partially~~ deleted or modified while assuring the validity of the whole electronic document.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[9]] 8, wherein the creating comprises dividing [[of]] the electronic document ~~includes~~ by adding a delimiter to the beginning and/or end of [[each]] one or more of the partial documents.

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein:

the electronic document is a document created with a markup language;

the partial documents are markup units for the document created with the markup language; and

[[each]] the delimiter is a tag for the markup language.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[9]] 8, wherein the generating of the item of information to verify validity for each of the partial documents comprises generating a hash value with a hash function for each respective one of the partial documents.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[9]] 8, wherein the generating of the item of information to verify validity for each of the partial documents comprises generating a digital signature for each respective one of the partial documents.